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Southern District of New York*

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**FORMER SCHOOLTEACHER PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGE  
OF USING INTERNET TO ENTICE MINOR TO ENGAGE IN SEX**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that SEYMOUR KUSHNER pled guilty today in White Plains federal court before United States Magistrate Judge MARK D. FOX to an Indictment charging KUSHNER with using the Internet to entice a minor to engage in prohibited sexual activity.

KUSHNER was arrested on May 21, 2003, at the Palisades Mall in Rockland County, New York, when he attempted to meet a "13-year-old girl" that he had enticed over the Internet to engage in sexual activity with him.

According to the Complaint filed earlier and today's guilty plea, the arrest was the result of an undercover investigation by the Rockland County Sheriff's Office, in which a detective pretended during Internet communications to be a 13-year-old girl.

The Complaint charged that on April 10, 2003, KUSHNER, using the screen name "Nurturingmaster," initiated an AOL Instant Messenger ("IM") conversation with an individual whose profile indicated that she was a school-age female. The individual, an undercover Rockland County detective, said she was 13 years old, and KUSHNER asked, "do you like much older guys?"

According to the Complaint, on May 16, 2003, KUSHNER had another IM chat in which KUSHNER enticed the "13-year-old" to "meet me tomorrow" or "next week" for sex and warned her not to tell other people about him, saying "I could get in big trouble you know." The Complaint alleged that in another IM chat on May 19, 2003, KUSHNER had an extended, sexually explicit conversation with the "13-year-old." In another chat on May 20, 2003, KUSHNER told her he would pick her up at the Palisades Mall in a blue Mercedes. KUSHNER asked where the "girl" went to school; she answered "middle school," and KUSHNER replied "cool."

On May 21, 2003, KUSHNER was arrested by agents of the United States Secret Service and officers from the Rockland County Sheriff's Office in the parking lot of the Palisades Mall. According to the Complaint, KUSHNER was driving a Mercedes, had six condoms in his pocket, and had a briefcase containing various sexual implements.

Judge FOX recommended that KUSHNER's guilty plea be accepted and scheduled sentencing for December 3, 2003. The sentencing will be conducted by United States District Judge CHARLES L. BRIEANT. Because of an amendment enacted on April 30, 2003, increasing the punishment under the federal law that covers this crime, KUSHNER faces a mandatory minimum prison sentence of 5 years and a maximum of 30 years and a \$250,000 fine.

KUSHNER, who is retired, taught music in the Edgemont school district for 25 years.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the office of Rockland County Computer Crimes Task Force and of the United States Secret Service, which worked jointly on this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney JACOB W. BUCHDAHL is in charge of the prosecution.

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